during, 2006-07 was 96.71 MMSCMD. Out of this, around 53 MMSCMD is APM gas. APM gas outside the North East is sold at Rs. 3200/MSCM for power and fertilizers sector consumers, and at Rs. 3840/MSCM for small scale consumers, *i.e.*, those consuming below 50,000 standard cubic metres per day, and court-mandated customers. APM gas for customers in the North East is sold at Rs. 1920/MSCM for power and fertilizers sector consumers and at Rs. 2304/MSCM for small scale consumers and court-mandated customers. Producers of gas, *viz.*, ONGC and OIL, have been demanding higher price for APM gas, considering various factors like cost of production, prices of alternate fuels, prices of natural gas from alternative sources, such as JV gas, LNG, etc.

Gas produced by pre-NELP JVs is sold under the provisions of the concerned Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs); this includes gas from Panna-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) Joint Venture (JV), Ravva JV and Ravva Satellite. The producers of Ravva Satellite demanded a higher price in 2006, as provided for under the Gas Sales Agreement (GSA). The consumers of gas, especially IPPs in Andhra Pradesh, demanded that the price should not be increased beyond the then prevailing price of US$ 3.3/MMBTU. Finally, GAIL negotiated a price of US$ 4.40/MMBTU (including GAIL's marketing margin).

Price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the LNG seller and the buyer. In order to make the price of RLNG affordable, the Government decided to pool the prices of LNG procured under different terms contracts at different prices, to supply RLNG on a non-discriminatory basis to all existing and new consumers. Some of the existing consumers, who have been getting RLNG at lower rates, have contested this decision in the Courts.

Regarding price of gas from fields under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), the producers of gas are demanding a market determined price under the provisions of PSC, while the consumers have requested gas to be made available at lesser rates. The Government is considering the constitution of an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to deliberate on the issue.

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board

†388. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it had been decided to establish Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board in March, 2006 in the country;

(b) if not, when this decision was taken; and

(c) the reasons for not implementing the above decision till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Petroleum and Natural Gas

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been set up *w.e.f.* 25.06.2007 under the PNGRB Act, 2006.

(b) to (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Details of prices of gas

389. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the basic price of gas supplied under administrative price mechanism in North East and North West areas;

(b) the basic price of gas supplied by NELP blocks, joint ventures and private producers; and

(c) the average price of imported LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The basic price of gas supplied under the Administrative Price Mechanism (APM) in the North East to consumers of Power and Fertilizers sector is Rs. 1920 per Metric Standard Cubic Metre (MSCM). The basic price of gas for small scale consumers, *i.e.*, those consuming below 50,000 Standard Cubic Metres per day, and court mandated consumers in the North-East is Rs. 2304/ MSCM. The basic price of gas for the rest of the country, including North West areas, is Rs. 3200/MSCM for Power and Fertilizers sector consumers and Rs. 3840/- MSCM for small scale consumers and court mandated consumers. The mentioned gas price is for Net Calorific Value (NCV) of 10,000 K. cal/SCM.

(b) Prevailing gas prices under NELP blocks/Joint Ventures/Private Producers are as under:

Field	Gas price
Panna-Mukta and Tapti	3.96, 4.75 and 5.58 US $ per MMBTU
Ravva Field	3.50 US $ per MMBTU
Ravva Satellite	4.30 US $ per MMBTU
Hazira	3.24 US $ per MMBTU
CB OS/2	3.68 and 4.45 US $ per MMBTU
Dholka	Rs. 2 per SCM
CB ONN 2000/2 (NSA, Bhegma)	3.45 US $/1000 cubic feet

(c) The average price of imported LPG for the period April-June, 2007 was Rs. 25,489/MT.